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7 June 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Schlesinger's Memorandum

1. I am attaching the Schlesinger memorandum on "How to Take Advantage of the Death of Stalin." His ideas seem good.

2. I see that he sees the same requirement for special studies, and I should think that those which he has listed are pretty close to the studies which we have in mind. Thus, the study of "personal relationships within the Politburo" and of "groups within the Soviet hierarchy" could be merged into the "political leadership" study which OIR has in mind. I should think that a separate study of the Stalin-Trotsky fight would be useful if, as he suggests, it is directed towards an investigation of the inside maneuvers which are likely to take place when there are rivalries for power between two or more contesting factions. I would question giving high priority now to the study which he suggests for "capabilities for regional revolt and resistance." This thought of mine is based on the assumption that for the purposes we have in mind, there is an existing potential of discontent which is sufficient, that what we are trying to do is to find the leadership inside the Communist Party which will itself organize and take advantage of the discontent.

3. I likewise question a high priority for his study of "Soviet response to shock." In 1941, the problem for Soviet leadership was not defense against revolt from inside. To be analagous, therefore, the 1941 situation should be a study in relation more to a war-time situation when Russia was in the act of being invaded by the US and its Allies.

4. His ideas about interrogation of Soviet personnel, etc., are also interesting and I should think that it would be desirable for us to talk about this with him some time soon.

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Enclosure:

1. Subject memo

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